

Turning the Tide

All citizens can serve as change agents in accomplishing the mission to reverse irreparable environmental damage by expanding self-awareness, implementing new behaviors, and motivating others.

This monthly summary of environmental news, resources, and networking opportunities serves to enhance the education and awareness of those who want to "Turn the Tide."

www.ircgov.com/stormwater
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IRC Pollution Reporting Hotline # 226-1888
Email "environmental news" to dwilson@ircgov.com

NEWS FLASH...(received this news as I am emailing this newsletter to you)
the ELC in Vero needs supplies after a fire burned their wet lab, 1 classroom and some restrooms. MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS: ALL the supplies for the younger-age camp programs were in the classroom i.e., seine nets and snorkel sets. Contact Heather Stapleton, Ed Coordinator, Environmental Learning Center, 255 Live Oak Drive, Vero Beach FL 32963 772-589-5050 heather@DiscoverELC.org

JULY 2 ... The EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard are co-hosting a webcast 12 noon – 1:30 pm (go to www.epa.gov/npdes/training) regarding the **Proposed Vessel Discharge Permits.**

Letter From The Editor

Recently someone asked if they could quote what I had written to a colleague: ""Unless not one but **all of us collectively** change our pollution behaviors to avoid contaminating the stormdrains, we will see more negative news resulting from our collective adverse behaviors."

You have influence. You need to remember that each time you do something. We all know that actions are more powerful than words. But when you are in a hurry and throw a cigarette butt or a fast-food wrapper out the car window, do you stop and remind yourself that others are seeing your actions? They do. If they are not seeing you "in the act" they see the results of your actions. Your actions condone your beliefs and values. Observers can't help but internalize, "if others are polluting what difference will my preventive actions make in the scheme of things?"

Next time you do something stop and think. Remember that your actions have a two-fold effect:

1. the act itself
and
2. the influence it has on others' decision making

Thanks for supporting the stormwater mission (as stated in the masthead above): each one of us can reverse irreparable environmental damage by motivating others!

Keeping Indian River Beautiful,
Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Educator

Contents:

IRC Environmental Event Calendar
Tip for the Month (i.e., BMP)
Grant Deadlines
Websites To Know About

Topics of Interest For:
Everyone
Construction Industry
Students & Teachers
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Business Sector

IRC Environmental Event Calendar

To enhance community awareness and organizational planning, non-profit and governmental groups (no commercial groups) are welcome to list their environmental events, meetings and activities occurring inside and outside the county. Go to <http://www.calendar.yahoo.com>. The yahoo Id is IRCwaterqualityed and the password is calendar. Once you are in the calendar, events are easily added by selecting the desired date and clicking on "add". Please include your name, title, organization name and phone number in the comments section.

Did you know....

.....that Indian River County has a Pollution Reporting System?
Any form of pollution can be reported whether it is disposed on land or water. I focus on water in my message since the public is use to only thinking of typical dumping occuring on land. By promoting this specific message, awareness will increase as to the importance of not "rinsing the land pollution" into our waters. We are working on keeping the message brief and "user friendly" while effectively translating the message "To report an illicit discharge of pollutants all the hotline #." We welcome your feedback. Eventually it would be great to promote this message by way of bumper stickers for moter vehicle bumpers!!

DO YOU see **anything other than rain**

going into ditches & stormdrains?

If so, report the location anonymously.

**IRC's Pollution Reporting # 226-1888 or
www.IRCgov/stormwater**

Grant Deadlines

ROLLING DEADLINE - TMDL Water Quality Restoration Program stormwater construction grants, Deadline is rolling before Dec. 30 2008. Requires a 50/50 match. Average grant award is \$500K-\$1M. Approximately \$18M is available statewide. Construction of stormwater BMPs, wet detention, exfiltration, baffle boxes, etc. Contact aadams@gate.net

Websites to Know About

www.CNN.com/solutions, profiles innovative solutions to tough environmental problems
[Carbon Footprint Calculator](http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/) – <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/>
www.Earth911.org
www.BuildingSoil.org
www.recyclefloridatoday.org
<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/green/content/shared/green/index.html>
<http://www.learningtogive.org/>.

NEWS FOR EVERYONE....

Bacteria that can eat (biodegrade) plastic (I heard this on Paul Harvey's segment...) have been discovered by a teen-aged science fair contestant. Daniel Burd may have figured out a way for humanity to take care of the five hundred million plastic bags tossed into landfills and the ocean every year. Burd had an idea; what if nature had already solved this problem? What if there was a microorganism that could do the job? With this question in mind, Burd collected soil samples from landfills and started feeding the bacteria contained therein a constant diet of ground up polythene bags. He found that a combination of Sphingomonas and Pseudomonas bacterial types worked the best together; he estimates that a complete degradation of a polythene bag could take as little as three months. Read more at <http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/Science-Fiction-News.asp?NewsNum=1694>

NEW DEP Newsletter re: TMDL/watershed management

A quarterly newsletter, posted on the web site at:
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/index.htm> will keep watershed stakeholders informed about ongoing activities within the TMDL/watershed management and restoration program. If you'd like to contribute a story for future editions, please email it to Eric Livingston (eric.livingston@dep.state.fl.us)

JOB OPEN AT DEP OFFICE IN TALLAHASSEE

Heather Ritchie, the current NPDES Certification Coordinator will be filling John Abendroth's (Section [Administrator](#)) position in August, currently her boss, and he is moving to another section. They are looking for a replacement so contact her if you know

someone who would be interested: Heather Ritchie, Stormwater Certification Ed.
Coordinator, DEP - Nonpoint Source Management Section Phone 850/245-8294
Heather.Ritchie@dep.state.fl.us

Photographers.....July 31st is the deadline for entries to be postmarked for the 2009 Indian River Lagoon Photo Contest. The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program is seeking lagoon-related photographs for publication in our 2009 Indian River Lagoon Calendar. Indian River Lagoon Program, 525 Community College Parkway SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909 321.984.4950 or 800.226.3747

DEP has NEW Pollution Reporting # for Cell Phones



What is an Environmental Crime?

Environmental crimes can cause harm to Florida's environment and put people at risk. These crimes can be defined as the willful or negligent violation of any law or rule enacted to protect the environment or regulate the generation and disposal of waste. Some examples include the illegal disposal of hazardous waste, burning or burying prohibited materials, and unauthorized dredge and fill activity in wetlands.

Violations of environmental laws may not always be obvious. Signs of violations may include (but are not limited to):

- **Soil leaving a construction site**
- **Anything other than rain going into a ditch or stormdrain**
- **Containers or drums that appear to be abandoned (for example, you find them in a forest, along a roadside or otherwise in a place where it appears they do not belong), especially if they are corroded or leaking.**
- **Discolored and/or stressed, dying plant life.**
- **Visible sheens on the ground or in the water.**
- **Foul smelling or strange looking emissions into the air.**

Citizens should also be aware of odd activities, such as:

- **A truck dumping materials into a manhole or sewer drain.**
- **A truck unloading drums at odd hours or in odd places.**
- **A person burying drums on business or residential property.**

Environmental emergencies, like oil and chemical spills and the release of radioactive materials, may occur from transportation accidents, events at chemical or other facilities using or manufacturing chemicals, or as a result of natural or human caused disasters.

Mark your calendars: September 20: The Worldwide Ocean Conservancy Coastal Cleanup Event right here in Indian River County

Join people worldwide and spend a day at the beach removing trash and debris. Show your commitment to clean oceans and waterways. To join us or for additional information about this and other cleanup events contact KIRB at 388-5472.

Company Proposes Algae Treatment, Renewable Power

(from Jo Moore 6-26-08) June 24, 2008

Algaewheel, Inc. recently said that it will be submitting a proposal to build a facility in Cedar Lake, Ind., that uses algae to treat municipal wastewater and uses the sludge byproduct to produce electricity, heat, and biofuel.

Christopher Limcaco, president of Algaewheel, announced that his company has partnered with Thieneman Construction to develop and design the proposal.

"Cedar Lake officials are demonstrating both fiscal and environmental awareness by soliciting the proposal, and Algaewheel is excited about the opportunity," Limcaco said.

The continued growth of Cedar Lake has necessitated the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. The new facility will be capable of treating an estimated 2.25 million gallons of wastewater per day and will serve residents on the west side of Cedar Lake. Algaewheel's bid will be submitted by July 7. The successful bidder should be identified by Sept. 7. Construction of the new facility should begin this year and be completed by the end of 2009.

The ground-breaking facility would include a patented type of algae production. Invented by Limcaco, the process uses specially designed wheels that maximize algae production and automatically harvest the algae. The wheel, which has been in development for 13 years, quadruples the surface area available for algae production as compared to a stationery algae tank.

The algae are a component of the system that treats and filters the wastewater by removing certain contaminants, such as phosphorous, and breaking down solids. According to Limcaco, "the system is basically an algae farm using the wastewater as fertilizer". The resulting sludge is a mixture of wastewater solids and algae. This mixture is then thermally treated using a process similar to gasification that removes oils from the

sludge mixture in stage one and gasifies the remaining solids to produce electricity and high-grade fertilizer in stage two.

Cedar Lake and the surrounding area is a fast-growing community of about 35,000 residents and lies a few miles south of Crown Point, Ind. Thieneman Construction is a privately-held company based in Crown Point. Algaewheel is a privately-held company based in Indianapolis, Ind..

Marine Resources Council July Brown Bag

Lunch presentation Topics ... are fun, informative, and free! Presentations target the layman, and covered topics include ecology, aquatic life, history, native plants, and others of interest to those who care about our environment and the Indian River Lagoon in particular. Presentations are held Tuesdays at Noon at the Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay *For more information, call the Marine Resources Council at 321-725-7775.*

July 01 Going Green with Native Plants and No Lawn -*Cammie Donaldson, Native Plants Society* Save money, water and time by using Native Plants and Wildflowers in your landscaping in place of lawn. Learn how this helps butterflies and wildlife and reduces pollution to the Lagoon.

July 08 Working to Restore Oyster Mats – Hands on Presentation *Michelle Snider, The Nature Conservancy* Learn why the Oyster reefs are so important to the Lagoon, what has caused them to disappear and what can be done to help restore them. While you attend, you can help make an oyster mat that will restore our oyster reefs.

July 15 Hiking the Florida Trail and other Florida Locations *Richard Loudon, FL Trail Association* Learn where the best hiking locations in Florida are, including the Florida Trail, and what you can see when you are there. The Florida Trail Association has been developing a local trail to connect the length of the state of Florida.

July 22 The Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway *Beth McMillen, MRC* The Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway provides residents and visitors to the region an opportunity to enjoy and explore our unique region. Beth will tell you about the projects that are funded by the scenic byway as well as the many parks, landmarks, wildlife refuges, and sanctuaries along the way.

July 25 (Friday) – “Plastics Are Forever – Protecting Wildlife from Plastic Pollution” *Anne Rubio, Sea Turtle Preservation Society* (**this presentation is at Riverview Park, Sebastian**) Learn why plastics are "forever" and how this impacts wildlife, including sea turtles. Anne will discuss some alternatives to plastics, and ways that you can help keep our wildlife safe from plastics.

July 29 Images of America: Cape Canaveral Ray Osbourne, Maritime Historian Local historian Ray Osbourne will give us a glimpse into times past, touching on natural history, community celebrations, steamboats, ancient Indians and their relics. He will bring copies

of his new book "Images of America: Cape Canaveral" and will be available for book signings.

What you need to know before you grill your fresh catch of the day

You can download a handy reference card which lists fish according to high, low and moderate mercury levels at <http://fn.cfs.purdue.edu/fish4health/Walletcard/walletcard.htm>.)

Article: Contaminants in Local Fishing Waters.....It's fun to go fishing. Just be sure that what you catch and where you catch it are healthy -- otherwise, catch and release. On the one hand fish is packed with protein and healthful omega-3 fatty acids, there are also all those warnings about toxins and contaminants. This is especially true for fish caught in local waters, as contaminants and toxins are in many "sparkling streams" and tend to vary by region. **While the government carries the burden of making sure fish in grocery stores and restaurants is safe, the same does not hold true for fish you or other locals catch on your own.** In this case consumers must be knowledgeable about the safety of the local waters. To sort through, the author of this article spoke with Charles R. Santerre, PhD, a professor of food toxicology in the department of foods and nutrition at Purdue University in Indiana.

POLLUTION MAKES SOME FISH UNSAFEThe primary worries for fish in general are mercury and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Fish caught in local waters may also contain pollutants such as DDT, dioxins and chlordane. Many of these environmental contaminants end up stored in our bodies and can take some time to be eliminated. For instance, PCBs are stored in body fat and the liver, while mercury is concentrated in organs and in muscle. High levels of mercury are linked with nervous system damage or impaired neurological development in the very young. **PCBs can take six years or more to clear from the human body.** Lots of variables contribute to the level of contamination in fish -- including where the fish lives, its age and how contaminated its food source is.

FISHING FOR INFORMATIONDon't assume that fish you -- or your neighbor -- catch locally is safe. Before eating, check with your local health department about safety considerations in the local waters. To find advisories, go to www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/states.htm.

Guidelines are different for youngsters, as well as for women who are nursing or pregnant. Fish consumption should be discussed with your physician in this case, since the nutrients are vital but the health risks are magnified. Dr. Santerre has developed a chart to help make smart choices for these populations when buying and eating fish. This handy reference sorts out fish according to high, low and moderate mercury levels. (You can download a wallet-sized version at <http://fn.cfs.purdue.edu/fish4health/Walletcard/walletcard.htm>.)

To learn more, in addition to the resources mentioned above, visit the US Environmental Protection Agency Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish/>. Source(s): Charles R.

Santerre, PhD, professor of food toxicology, department of foods and nutrition, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

Basic Fire-wise Principles for Home Protection

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is urging state residents to take action around their homes to prevent wildfires damage. “There are simple Fire-wise principles that everyone can put into practice immediately with little or no cost.” Bronson said.

Fire researchers have demonstrated that even 30 feet of defensible space around a home can greatly decrease the probability of structure damage or loss due to a wildfire. Little things often cause a structure to ignite rather than the major flame front itself. Bronson urges every homeowner to review The National Fire Protection Association recommended standards for people to follow who live in or near wild land areas.

(http://www.nfpa.org/freecodes/free_access_document.asp?id=114408)

3 areas around your home where these “little things” need your attention:

* **Roof and gutters:** remove all dead leaves, pine needles, small twigs and palm fronds – anything that can ignite easily by falling embers.

* **Sides of the home:** remove dead vegetation and any combustibles (e.g. fire wood piles) from the sides of your home

* **Area within 30 feet of your home:** remove dead vegetation, keep grass cut and watered, remove any vines stretching from the wildland to your home or into your trees, prune dead limbs from your trees and bushes.

For more Fire-wise tips, visit the Florida Division of Forestry web page: fl-dof.com.

BIOLOGY ADJUNCTS NEEDED BY IRC (formerly IRCC)

Biology adjuncts--especially to teach General Biology and Microbiology at our Okeechobee campus, however, we can use more adjuncts at our other campuses starting for the Fall semester.

In order to lecture at the college, minimum requirements are a Master's degree with 18 graduate hours in the subject you are teaching. Prior teaching experience would be nice, but is not required. The department will provide everything you need (text book, lecture materials, example tests, etc).

Pay runs according to the degree (Master's, Ph.D) you have but ballpark is \$500/credit hour (lecture classes are 3 credits) so it is approx. \$1500 per course. The course runs 15 weeks in the Fall & Spring and 6 weeks in the Summer semesters. Classes meet for 2 1/2

hours per week. Day classes generally meet twice a week for 1 and 1/4 hours, while night classes meet one day a week for 2 1/2 hours (usually 5:30 to 8 p.m.).

If anyone is interested or has questions, please have them contact me at this e-mail address, Sherry Bowen [sbowen@ircc.edu]

CDC: Expect More Recreational Water Illnesses

More recreational water illnesses outbreaks were reported in 2007 than ever before, and the numbers could increase in the coming years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Recreational water illnesses are illnesses that are spread by swallowing, breathing, or having contact with germs in the water of swimming pools, spas, lakes, rivers, or oceans.

"The leading cause of recreational water illnesses outbreaks is *Cryptosporidium* or Crypto, a chlorine-resistant parasite, primarily associated with treated swimming places, such as pools and water parks," explained Michele Hlavsa, an epidemiologist at the CDC. "This recreational water illness has been a public health issue in the past and will likely pose an even bigger challenge in the future."

During 2004-2007, the number of Crypto cases tripled. At the same time, the number of Crypto outbreaks linked to swimming pools more than doubled. Because Crypto is chlorine resistant, even a well-maintained pool can transmit this parasite.

"People need to practice healthy swimming habits, such as not swimming when they have diarrhea, not swallowing the water, taking a shower before swimming, washing their hands after using the toilet or changing diapers, and washing their children thoroughly -- especially their bottoms -- with soap and water before swimming. To prevent outbreaks, we encourage pool operators to add supplemental disinfection to conventional chlorination and filtration methods," adds Hlavsa.

Symptoms generally begin two to 10 days (average seven days) after becoming infected with the parasite.

Crypto is characterized by watery diarrhea lasting one to three weeks. It can be spread by swallowing recreational water contaminated with Crypto or by putting something in your mouth or accidentally swallowing something that has come in contact with the stool of a person or infected animal. Other symptoms include stomach cramps or pain, dehydration, nausea, vomiting, fever, and weight loss. Crypto is not spread by contact with blood.

Some people with Crypto will have no symptoms at all, and most people who have healthy immune systems will recover without treatment. People with weakened immune systems are at risk for severe or life-threatening illness.

Topics of Interest For....

The Construction Industry

Four of Nation's Largest Home Builders Settle Stormwater Violations - Four of the nation's largest home builders have agreed to pay civil penalties totaling \$4.3 million to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. The companies also have agreed to implement company-wide compliance programs that go beyond current regulatory requirements and put controls in place that will keep 1.2 billion pounds of sediment from polluting our nation's waterways each year. Additional information on this settlement can be found at: www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/cwa/homebuilders.html

EPA Final 2008 Construction General Permit

On June 30, EPA issued a final 2008 Construction General Permit (CGP) that covers discharges of stormwater from certain construction sites. Because EPA is in the process of developing a national regulation (called an Effluent Limitations Guideline) for the construction and development industry, this permit contains substantially the same terms and conditions as the 2003 CGP and has been issued for a two-year time period. The new permit applies only to "new" construction sites (e.g. those that have started construction on or after June 30, 2008 or those that started previously, but did not obtain permit coverage under the 2003 CGP). For more information on this new permit, please visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp You can subscribe to NPDES News at www.epa.gov/npdes/npdesnews

METRA Meetings are held at 3:00 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month typically at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Central District office in Orlando however it is advisable to check www.metra.org <www.metra.org> for meeting locations. There are no fees or dues to join METRA. Everyone is encouraged to come and participate. Remember, everybody shares and everybody benefits. See the Calendar of Events at (<http://metra.org/>). The mission of METRA (Metropolitan Environmental Training Alliance) is to promote environmental excellence through training and partnerships. METRA was established in 1998 by the leaders of Orange and Seminole Counties, the City of Orlando, the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Reedy Creek Improvement District and the DEP Central District. Contact METRA to be added to their email distribution list.

August 3 – 7, 2008 the world's largest stormwater conference, The North American Surface Water Quality Conference and Exposition at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort. You will learn the most current techniques and practices for meeting your stormwater compliance challenges from people with practical, hands-on experience. You can also learn from the stormwater-related products, services, and technology exhibitors. www.StormCon.com

November 5, 2008 METRA's FREE Environmental Excellence Day, to be held at the Sea World Ports O' Call facility in Orlando. Attended by environmental stakeholders from across the state, this workshop has become METRA's flagship event, combining a full day of expert environmental training, hot-topic presentations, a complimentary luncheon, exhibits, and prize drawings. The featured theme this year will be water conservation and feature a prominent guest speaker.

PlanetReuse.com is the world's first Web site that connects buyers and sellers of reused and reclaimed construction materials and equipment and allows them to purchase products with integrated shipping online, per <http://www.eponline.com/articles/60262>

Concrete washout issues ... EPA is targeting construction sites to insure that there is no violation of the NPDES requirements. Those who are in violation are being hauled away in handcuffs. Please make an extra effort to ensure your staff is informed and you are making specific plans to handle concrete washout. Contractors and concrete producers must wash out the chutes in order to prevent any concrete from spilling onto the streets. Simple solution for small amounts of washout is a designated pit (sign) lined with plastic – remove and haul off when dried. Make sure this activity is located AWAY from streams and water bodies. There are 2 potential pollutants in washout. 1 = pH issues. 2 = Selenium 6 (toxic). Any questions....look at the EPA and DEP websites.

Learn new practices and implement them project by project: <http://www.wwn-online.com/articles/50888/>

See www.BuildingSoil.org

Students & Teachers

Now through November 5th – vie for the \$25,000 award offered by the www.wfchallenge.com competition by conceiving and implementing a totally unique volunteer project improving any waterfront

Kids Taking Action to preserve aquatic habitats.....visit the website: <http://www.aquakids.tv/> – a half-hour program on the FOX television network (airs

locally on WFLX 12:30 PM Saturdays) features young people taking action across the U.S. to preserve aquatic environments and wildlife.

June 17 –20 Forestry Tour of Florida Educators - http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/forestry_teachers_tour.html

To open in the summer of 2008.....The Children’s Museum of the Treasure Coast, 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. The entire building will be used as an exhibit explaining “green” features with interactive displays and animated virtual tours designed to teach children and their parents the merits of sustainable building design, function and technology. Visit www.childrensmuseumtc.com for more information.

Marine Industry and Boaters

JULY 2 ... The EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard are co-hosting three public meetings, a webcast on July 2 12 noon – 1:30 pm (go to www.epa.gov/npdes/training), and a public hearing regarding the **Proposed Vessel Discharge Permits**. The EPA is proposing two general permits under the Clean Water Act that will cover discharges incidental to the normal operation of commercial and recreational vessels. Based on agency estimates, as many as 91,000 commercial vessels and about 13 million recreational boats could be affected. EPA is inviting comments on both proposed permits for a period of 45 days and has scheduled public meetings, a webcast, and a public hearing to discuss these proposed permits. For more information about the proposed vessel discharge permits and public outreach events, please visit: www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels The proposed RGP for recreational and uninspected passenger vessels less than 79 feet in length contains simple requirements covering potential sources of pollution such as fueling, trash management, deck and hull cleaning, and graywater discharges.

Planning going on now for theThe 1st Tri-County Waterway Clean-up – on July 19. Indian River County citizens (along with Martin and St. Lucie residents) can plan and participate in this event sponsored by the Florida Inland Navigation District and coordinated by The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC). This will be the first cleanup specifically concentrating on the waterways, spoil islands and area canals. For more information please contact April Price, southyacht@aol.com, cell #: (772) 285-1646.

Bio-degradable Lures

You own a four stroke outboard to power your fishing boat, you use nontoxic sinkers; you never throw anything overboard except when casting a fishing lure attached to your line; how can you be polluting the waters that you fish?

It is said that the bottom of Lake Okeechobee is coated with enough soft plastic lures to make a pile large enough to cushion a tank dropped from a plane! If you are using soft plastic lures you may be unknowingly contributing to a growing problem when you lose a lure on bottom or when a fish breaks it off your line. These lures come in a variety of designs to mimic crayfish, salamanders, worms, minnows, etc. Most soft plastic baits sold today are not biodegradable. In other words, they do not readily breakdown in the environment. That means they persist for a very long time on the lake bottom and can be picked up by fish and other aquatic life, and mistakenly eaten as food. This can seriously harm the ability of these animals to feed and grow. The physical presence of the lures on the lake bottom also cover important habitat and may release chemicals called phthalates. Phthalates are cancer causing and can affect reproductive capability.

So what's the big deal, a few lures here and there seems miniscule compared to the amount of water that is open to fishing. It may not seem like an issue but Florida has nearly thousands of anglers, and with the increased popularity of fishing with soft plastic lures and a 7-month fishing season, these persistent pollutants can accumulate.

The good news is that you don't need to stop fishing with these effective lures to help to deal with this problem. Several companies are now offering biodegradable versions that in some cases may be even more effective than original soft plastics. Companies like Advanced Angler Technology (AAT), Berkley and Food Source Lures produce baits that can break down in as little as three weeks. Some of them can also be safely eaten by fish with no ill effects. The prices for the lures are also very competitive with current soft plastics. If your local supplier does not stock biodegradable lures, request that they order some for you. In the meantime, the lures are readily available from online suppliers. If you are a member of a fishing club, suggest that the use of biodegradable lures become club policy and that the club work with local suppliers to ensure that they stock them in their stores.

Anglers have always been known as advocates for clean water. Switching to biodegradable lures will continue that tradition and will ensure that future generations will be able to continue to enjoy Maine's precious water resources.

This column was submitted by Bill Laflamme, an Environmental Specialist with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. In Our Back Yard is a weekly column of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. E-mail your environmental questions to infodep@maine.gov or send them to In Our Back Yard, Maine DEP, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

From the Department of Environmental Protection, State of Maine -

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=IOB&id=41264&v=Article>

Posted on 12 Feb 2008 by Fish Florida

Here is an idea tournament directors can consider...The Miami Beach Sailfish Tournament produces a lot of CO2 – roughly 2,000 tons, according to Dan Kipnis, founder of the event. To offset the impact of fuel used by boat engines, travel to the tournament, and the manufacture of tournament T-shirts, this year corporate sponsors bought carbon credits, which will help fund a methane capture project...per www.CNN.com/solutions

Adopt-A-Fishing Bin Project - Volunteers are needed to inventory monofilament recycling bins along our waterfronts, and place collection boxes in marine-oriented businesses. For details contact KIRB at 388-5472

Clean Boater Program – If you would like to assist in the efforts to promote this valuable program at events please call KIRB at 388-5472. We can educate our citizens to utilize Florida's Clean Marinas, Boatyards & Retailers, safeguard the state's waterways, and adopt environmentally-friendly practices such as using bilge socks, fueling collars, and good recycling habits. For more information see www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/boater/default.htm

Business Sector

Important Things to Remember:

- 1. Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution.**
- 2. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind.**
- 3. Be prepared! Keep spill cleanup materials easily accessible.**
- 4. Use dry methods to clean up spills whenever possible.
Never wash spills down the storm drain.**
- 5. Train staff regularly on these practices.**
- 6. Pick up litter daily. Maintain the sidewalk in front of your business so that it is free of litter and dirt. Don't wash into street or storm drain**
- 7. Provide enough trash receptacles for customers and employees.
All outdoor receptacles must be covered.**
- 8. Mercury contaminates fish making them unsafe to eat. Properly dispose of hazardous waste and recycle all mercury-containing products including fluorescent lamps, light bulbs, manometers, thermostats, switches, and batteries.**
- 9. Do not over water. Maintain sprinklers to avoid pavement watering.**
- 10. Clean up grass clippings or place them back on your grass.
Don't dispose of grass clippings into street or in storm drain.**
- 11. Do not rinse waste containers or areas to storm drain.**
- 12. Don't direct any wash or rinse water to a gutter, street or storm drain.**